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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/591,083

10/08/2007

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TJA-148US

7797

23122 7590 11/25/2009  
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EXAMINER

DUNWIDDIE, MEGHAN K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2875

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/25/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/591,083	<b>Applicant(s)</b> BANDE MARTINEZ ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> MEGHAN K. DUNWIDDIE	<b>Art Unit</b> 2875	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                       | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08/30/2006</u> .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                          |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This Office Action is a Non-Final Rejection in response to the application filed on October 8, 2007 by **Martinez** et al.

#### ***Priority***

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

#### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on August 30, 2006 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, and accordingly, the information disclosure statement has been considered by the examiner.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Weber** et al. (US 6561685).

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5. In reference to Claim 1, **Weber** et al. shows a rearview mirror assembly of an automotive vehicle with a flashing device comprising:

- A rearview mirror housing with a first opening in which the said rearview mirror is arranged and a second opening defined in at least parts of the recto d the outer perimeter of said housing, which is in part opposite to the first opening [Figure 1: (1)],
- An outer module which can be coupled to said housing closing said second opening, said outer module defining inwardly an elongated passage delimited between two walls, an inner wall and an outer wall acting as a cover which is at least partly transparent, said elongated passage defining a path [Figure 1: (3)],
- And a double-sided printed circuit board, including at least one light emitting component in each of its sides, said board being electrically connected to a feed and control system and located transversely with respect to said elongated passage, dividing the latter into two areas, a rear area with respect to the direction of travel extending from said board to an end area adjacent to the rearview mirror and visible together with the latter, and a front area formed by the rest of the elongated passage such that one of said at least two light emitting components projects light along said rear area, this desired horizontal and vertical angles through a transparent portion of said cover, and at least another of said two light emitting components located in the other side of said printed circuit board projects light along said front area, this light exiting through said cover [Figure 1: (7 and 8)].

6. In reference to Claim 2, **Weber** et al. shows:
  - Said double sided printed circuit board is at least partly rigid [Figure 1: (7)].
7. In reference to Claim 3, **Weber** et al. shows:
  - Said double sided printed circuit board is located perpendicularly with respect to said elongated passage [Figure 1: (7)].
8. In reference to Claim 4, **Weber** et al. shows:
  - Said elongated passage follows a curved path in at least part of said rear area [Figures 1 and 2: (3)].
9. In reference to Claim 5, **Weber** et al. shows:
  - Compensation optical means allowing, when due to said curved path of at least part of said rear area of the elongated passage, the light projected by the light emitting component does not directly exit by said end area of the elongated passage with said desired horizontal and vertical angles, to divert said light so that it exits by said end area with said desired horizontal and vertical angles through said transparent portion of said cover [Figure 2: (4)].
10. In reference to Claim 6, **Weber** et al. shows:
  - Said compensation optical means comprise at least a hollow transverse channel of prismatic geometry located approximately in the point of tangency of the light

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projected by the light emitting component, from the geometric center thereof, with an inner surface of said inner wall [Figure 2: (4)].

11. In reference to Claim 7, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said compensation optical means further comprise a thickened portion of the cover from said transverse channel to the end of the cover [Figure 2: (4)].

12. In reference to Claim 8, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said compensation optical means further comprise reflector elements arranged in at least part of an inner surface of the inner wall delimiting said elongated passage in said rear area [Figure 2: (10)].

13. In reference to Claim 9, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said double sided printed circuit board includes two light emitting components in at least one of its sides [Figure 2: (7 and 8)].

14. In reference to Claim 10, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said light emitting components are placed on said printed circuit board in a certain manner in relation to the elongated passage so that, in combination with some emission characteristics thereof, they project light outside with said desired horizontal and vertical angles [Figure 2: (8)].

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15. In reference to Claim 11, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Optical means which, independently or in collaboration with said certain manner in which the light emitting components are arranged and the mentioned emission characteristics thereof, make the light emitting components of one of the sides of the printed circuit board project light outside backwards with said desired horizontal and vertical angles, and the light emitting component of the other side project light forwards, the light passing through said optical means in both cases [Figure 2: (4)].

16. In reference to Claim 12, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said desired horizontal angle is equal to or greater than 55 degrees and said desired vertical angle is equal to or greater than 25 degrees [See Figure 2].

17. In reference to Claim 13, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said two light emitting components of said side of the printed circuit board are spaced and located one above the other with respect to a vertical plane [Figure 2: (8)].

18. In reference to Claim 14, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said two light emitting components of said side of the printed circuit board are spaced and located one above the other with respect to a horizontal plane [Figure 2: (8)].

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19. In reference to Claim 15, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said light emitting components are LEDs [Figure 2: (8)].

20. In reference to Claim 16, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said printed circuit board includes a circuitry for protecting said light emitting components [Figure 2: (7)].

21. In reference to Claim 17, **Weber** et al. shows:

- At least said projection circuitry is formed by at least some resistances arranged in the printed circuit board by carbon or graphite laydown [Figures 3-21: (14)].

22. In reference to Claim 18, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said optical means comprises plastic parts acting as optics [Figure 2: (4)].

23. In reference to Claim 19, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said optical means comprise plastic parts acting as optics including at least one lens which forms part of the LEDs themselves and/or is arranged thereupon after the injection of the lens in an insulating material likewise injected on the printed circuit board, thus forming a type of tablet [Figure 2: (4)].



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24. In reference to Claim 20, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said optical means comprise plastic parts acting as optics and forming at least part of said cover including at least one lens and/or configurations of a prismatic geometry [Figure 2: (4)].

25. In reference to Claim 21, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said optical means further comprise reflector elements arranged in at least part of an inner surface of the inner wall [Figure 2: (10)].

26. In reference to Claim 22, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said printed circuit board is completely rigid [Figure 2: (7)].

27. In reference to Claim 23, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said printed circuit board comprises a connector which can be coupled to another corresponding connector located in said outer module or in said depressed perimeter of said housing, thus carrying out the mentioned electrical connection with said feed control system located inside said automotive vehicle [Figure 2: (9)].

28. In reference to Claim 24, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said printed circuit board comprises means for protection against weathering [Figure 2: (6)].

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29. In reference to Claim 25, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said means for protection are materialized in the form of at least one material selected from the group consisting of: epoxy resin, polyimide, thermoplastic polyurethane, thermoplastic elastomer and rubber [Figure 2: (6)].

30. In reference to Claim 26, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said material coats at least part of said printed circuit board [Figure 2: (6)]

31. In reference to Claim 27, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said material coats the whole printed circuit board except the areas occupied by the light emitting components [Figure 2: (6)].

32. In reference to Claim 28, **Weber** et al. shows:

- A circuit arranged along at least one of said two areas of said elongated passage so as to at least electrically connect said feed and control system with the printed circuit board [Figure 2: (7)].

33. In reference to Claim 29, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said circuit includes a circuitry for protecting and/or polarizing said light emitting components [Figure 2: (7) and Figures 3-21].

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34. In reference to Claim 30, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said circuitry for protecting and/or polarizing is formed by a series of electronic components among which there is at least one of the group formed by resistances and diodes [Figure 2: (7) and Figures 3-21].

35. In reference to Claim 31, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said circuit is supported by a flexible board with a first end near which said printed circuit board is connected, and a second distal end near which said electronic components are arranged [Figure 2: (7 and 6)].

36. In reference to Claim 32, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said flexible board comprises a connector which can be coupled to another corresponding connector electrically connected with said feed and control system, to feed and control said light emitting components [Figure 2: (9)].

37. In reference to Claim 33, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said flexible board and/or said circuit are formed or coated at least partly by a heat sink material [Figure 2: (6 and 7)].

38. In reference to Claim 34, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said printed circuit board and/or said flexible board comprise an intermediate electrically insulating dielectric layer of low thermal impedance electrically

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connected to said light emitting components and/or to said circuit and joined to a metallic substrate in order to dissipate heat from said light emitting components and/or said circuit [Figure 2: (7)].

39. In reference to Claim 35, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said flexible board and/or said circuit and/or said printed circuit board are connected to a heat sink element [Figure 2: (7 and 6)].

40. In reference to Claim 36, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said flexible board is double sided [Figure 2: (6)].

41. In reference to Claim 37, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said inner wall defines an opening for introducing said printed circuit board [Figure 2: (7 and 6)].

42. In reference to Claim 38, **Weber** et al. shows:

- A support and positioning semi-capsule for carrying the printed circuit board and facilitating its positioning inside said elongated passage in the mentioned position when said board is at least partly introduced through said opening, said semi-capsule being outside said elongated passage covering said opening [Figure 2: (6)].

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43. In reference to Claim 39, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said semi-capsule comprises holding means to hold said printed circuit board by an end portion [Figure 2: (6)].

44. In reference to Claim 40, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said holding means comprise at least one elastic tab with a configuration which can collaborate with a complementary configuration thereof arranged in said end portion of said printed circuit board [Figure 2: (tabs at end of 6)].

45. In reference to Claim 41, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said holding means comprise two elastic tabs with respective configurations each of which comprise a boss in the end of each tab faced towards the inside of the semi-capsule to hold the printed circuit board like a clamp by two complementary configurations arranged in said end portion of said printed circuit board [Figure 2: (tabs at end of 6)].

46. In reference to Claim 42, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said holding means comprises a configuration for housing by coupling tightly said printed circuit board by said end portion [Figure 2: (6)].

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47. In reference to Claim 43, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said semi-capsule comprises through holes in its base for the passage of a portion of metallic pins connected to said printed circuit board to make the mentioned electrical connecting with said feed and control system possible [Figure 2: (6)].

48. In reference to Claim 44, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said semi-capsule has a perimetric edge along the outline of an open side adapted to achieve its fixing to the outer surface of the inner wall around said opening [Figure 2: (6)].

49. In reference to Claim 45, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said perimetric edge is adapted such that said fixing is produced by means of friction welding [Figure 2: (6)].

50. In reference to Claim 46, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said perimetric edge is adapted such that said fixing is produced by means of ultrasonic welding [Figure 2: (6)].

51. In reference to Claim 47, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said feed and control system is located inside said automotive vehicle [Figure 2: (9)].

52. In reference to Claim 48, **Weber** et al. shows a rear view mirror assembly of an automotive vehicle with a flashing device comprising:

- A rearview mirror housing with an opening in which said rearview mirror is arranged, at least part of the rest of the outer perimeter of said housing, which is in part opposite to said opening, is depressed towards the inside of the housing, defining an elongated passage delimited between an inner wall of said recess and an outer wall which acts as a cover which is at least partly transparent, said elongated passage defining a path [Figure 1: (1, 2, 3 and 5)];
- A double sided printed circuit board including at least one light emitting component in each of its sides, said board being electrically connected to a feed and control system and located transversely with respect to the direction of travel extending from said board to an end area adjacent to the rearview mirror and visible together with the latter, and a front area formed by the rest of the elongated passage such that one of said at least two light emitting components projects light along said rear area, this light exiting by said end area of the rear area of said elongated passage with desired horizontal and vertical angles through a transparent portion of said cover, and at least another of said two light emitting components located in the other side of said printed circuit board projects light along said front area, this light exiting through said cover [Figure 2: (7 and 9)].

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53. In reference to Claim 49, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said optical means comprise plastic parts acting as optics [Figure 2: (4)]

54. In reference to Claim 50, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said flexible board is doubled sided [Figure 2: (7)].

55. In reference to Claim 51, **Weber** et al. shows:

- Said flexible board is doubled sided [Figure 2: (7)].

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MEGHAN K. DUNWIDDIE whose telephone number is (571)272-8543. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8 am-4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571)272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MKD

/Sandra L. O'Shea/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2875